has so far submitted four reports covering 19 PSUs out of the 50 referred to it. Of these the last report covering four PSUs has been submitted in August, 1997. Besides recommending disinvestment/strategic sales at varying levels, the Commission has also made general recommendations relating to autonomy, corporate goverance, etc. On the basis of the recommendations made by the Commission, the Government have decided to disinvest partially its equity shareholding in three companies during 1997-98, i.e. Gas Authority of India Ltd., Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and Container Corporation of India and defer, at present, disinvestment in four PSUs, namely, ONGC Oil India Ltd., Manganese Ore India Ltd. and RITES. Implementation of the various recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission is a continuous process.

Statutory body of experts for revising the rates of royalty

2095. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government has represented to streamline the existing system of departmentally fixing of rates of royalty;

(b) whether it is proposed to set up a statutory body of experts to revise the rates of royalty;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any decision has been taken to revise the rate of royalty for lignite every three years;

(e) if so, when the last rate of royalty was revised and implemented; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal to set up a statutory body for revision of royalty rates. Conventionally a Study Group is set up for revision of rates of royalty from time to time. The Study Group normally has representatives from different States, Industry, Indian Bureau of Mines, etc.

(d) to (f) Revision of rates of royalty for lignite is also guided by the provisions of Section 9(3) of the MM (R&D) Act, 1957. Royalty on lignite was last revised with effect from 21-7-1990. Ministry of Coal, the nodal Ministry in this regard, has already initiated action for review of royalty on lignite.

Setting up a canstock making plant in Orissa

2096. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) proposes to set up a canstock making plant in Orissa;

(b) if so, the capacity of the planer and the estimated amount needed to invest for the installation for the plant.

(c) the site selected in Orissa for the location of the plant; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by NALCO in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has plans to set up a 45,000 TPA canstock plant at Angul at an estimated cost of Rs. 280 crores. The final decision in this regard will depend upon the results of techno-economic feasibility study.

Revising of rates of royalty on minerals

2097. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has been demanding since long